

November 2005 Election Candidacy Requirements For House of Delegates

2005 ELECTION CALENDAR

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ELECTION TYPE	ELECTION DATE	DEADLINES (PERIODS) FOR FILING			LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE	DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT
		² CANDIDATE DECLARATIONS/ PETITIONS	² OTHER CANDIDATE FORMS	³ PARTY CHAIRS CERTIFY CANDIDATES		
¹ Primary	June 14	March 29 noon to April 15 5:00 p.m.	April 15 5:00 p.m.	April 20 5:00 p.m.	May 16 5:00 p.m.	By Mail: June 9 In Person: June 11
PARTY NOMINATIONS, OTHER THAN BY PRIMARY ELECTION, MAY BE MADE NO EARLIER THAN MAY 13 AND MUST BE COMPLETED BY 7:00 P.M., JUNE 14						
² General	November 8	NON-PARTY CANDIDATES June 14 7:00 p.m.	ALL CANDIDATES June 14 7:00 p.m.	June 20 5:00 p.m.	⁴ October 11 5:00 p.m.	By Mail: November 3 In Person: November 5
¹ Notification of adoption of primary must be filed with the State Board of Elections by the Legislative District Chair not sooner than February 24, 2005 nor later than March 16, 2005. ² See the following pages for specifics as to forms required and where to be filed. The bulletin and forms are available on our web site: WWW.SBE.VIRGINIA.GOV OR for a \$10.00 prepaid fee, from the State Board of Elections. Make checks payable to: State Board of Elections (include the office and the district in which you will seek election.) VOICE: 804-864-8901 Toll-free: 800-552-9745 TTY: Toll-free 800-260-3466. ³ Forms for use in certification will be mailed to Party Chairs by State Board of Elections. ⁴ Monday, October 10 is a legal holiday (Columbus Day). Therefore, the last day to register to vote is the next business day (Tuesday, October 11, 2005). ON ANY ELECTION DAY - WHETHER GENERAL, PRIMARY, OR SPECIAL - THE POLLS ARE REQUIRED TO OPEN AT 6:00 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 7:00 P.M						



INTRODUCTION

This bulletin and all required forms are available on our website:

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/For_Candidates/candidate_info.htm

Each document is explained in Item V on Pages 3, 4 and 5 herein.

Filing deadlines and the officer with whom the qualifying forms are filed are addressed for each candidate type, i.e., Primary Candidate; Party Candidate Nominated By Method Other Than A Primary, and for an Independent (Non-Party) candidate.

Your particular attention is called to Item I on Page 1. This section addresses advertising and campaign material identification.

Should you have questions relating to your candidacy, please do not hesitate to call our toll-free line (800)-552-9745 and ask for the Election Services Division. You also can reach us at 804-864-8901.





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I. ADVERTISING AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

The Campaign Finance Disclosure Act imposes certain requirements relating to advertising and identification of campaign ads and materials, including sample ballots.

Refer to the *Summary of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act* (CFDA) and the *Stand By Your Ad Summary* published by the State Board of Elections for specific requirements. If you have questions on the Act, please call our toll-free line and ask for the Campaign Finance Division.

The following *additional* information is provided for your information:

A. Sample Ballots

Any **sample** of a paper or voting equipment **ballot** must contain the words **SAMPLE BALLOT**, the appropriate statement required by the CFDA and, in addition, must:

- (a) contain the words **SAMPLE BALLOT** in not less than 24 point type; and
- (b) if a **paper ballot**, be printed on paper of a color **other than white**.

B. Posting

Campaign materials may **NOT** be posted on any state-owned right of way [see Page 2 herein]. Contact your County Administrator or City Manager to determine whether local ordinances prohibit or restrict the posting of campaign materials.

No locality shall have the authority to prohibit the display of political campaign signs on **private property** if the signs are in compliance with zoning and right of way restrictions applicable to temporary nonpolitical signs and if the signs have been posted with the permission of the owner of the property. [§15.2-109 of the Code of Virginia]

C. Violations

If you believe the law has been violated and you have facts concerning the violation, you should report these facts in writing to the Commonwealth's Attorney in the county or city in which the violation happened.

Violations of state-owned right of way restrictions should be reported to your regional Virginia Department of Transportation office.

II. VDOT INFORMATION

A “clean” campaign is a sign of the times.



Don't “trash” your print budget or throw away volunteer time.

HIGHWAY WORKERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REMOVE POSTERS AND FLYERS ON SIGNS, GUARDRAIL - OR ANYWHERE ELSE ON STATE-OWNED RIGHT OF WAY. CAMPAIGN PRINT MATERIALS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE TO WIND UP IN THE BACK OF A VDOT TRUCK. AND VOLUNTEER TIME IS TOO VALUABLE TO BE WASTED ON PUTTING UP MATERIALS THAT ARE DESTINED TO COME DOWN.



Don't make highway workers “play politics” on the job.

PICKING UP POLITICAL MATERIALS IS A COSTLY ACTIVITY FOR VDOT. BUT THE COST TO THE CANDIDATE COULD BE EVEN HIGHER. VOTERS DON'T LIKE TO SEE THEIR TAX DOLLARS SUPPORTING SUCH ACTIVITIES. THEY EXPECT TO SEE HIGHWAY WORKERS PATCHING POTHOLES, FILLING LOW SHOULDERS, OR MOWING GRASS.



Don't let campaign materials turn into litter.

MANY VOTERS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO CLEAN UP ROADSIDES IN VDOT'S “ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY” PROGRAM. AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL BACK-BREAKING HOURS BENDING OVER TO PICK UP POLITICAL POSTERS, THEY WON'T FEEL TOO KINDLY TOWARDS THE NAMES AND FACES THAT THEY SEE OVER AND OVER AGAIN.



Don't get “stuck” by bumper stickers.

ONE LITTLE BUMPER STICKER CAN CAUSE A LOT OF EXPENSE. IF APPLIED TO A ROADSIDE SIGN, THE STICKY RESIDUE IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE. THE SIGN MAY HAVE TO BE REPLACED ENTIRELY. THE LARGE GREEN HIGHWAY SIGNS, FOR EXAMPLE, CAN COST UP TO \$800. EVEN A HUMBLE STOP SIGN COSTS MORE THAN \$50. DON'T RISK ALIENATING VOTERS BY DESTROYING THE VERY SIGNS THAT THEIR TAX DOLLARS HAVE PAID FOR.



Don't risk your candidate's image.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO PLACE POLITICAL SIGNS ON STATE-OWNED RIGHT OF WAY. YOU WANT CITIZENS TO VIEW YOUR CANDIDATE AS A LAWMAKER - NOT A LAW-BREAKER.



Don't risk someone's life.

ONE MISPLACED SIGN AT AN INTERSECTION COULD BLOCK A MOTORIST'S VISION - AND COST SOMEONE HIS LIFE. THAT'S WHY VDOT TRAFFIC ENGINEERS REVIEW THE PLACEMENT AND POSITION OF EACH HIGHWAY SIGN TO ENSURE SAFETY - AND TO MINIMIZE “VISUAL CLUTTER”. UNDERSTANDABLY, CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS ARE THINKING ABOUT VICTORY - NOT SAFETY. AND THAT COULD POSE A DEADLY PROBLEM.

DO put signs, posters, and other campaign materials anywhere you want on private property with the owner's permission, of course. And because political signs and posters located off the right of way aren't considered “outdoor advertising”, you won't even need a permit.

VDOT - call your local Virginia Department of Transportation office for details.

III. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A CANDIDATE

A candidate must be:

- ◆ Qualified to vote for and hold the office sought;
- ◆ Twenty-one years of age by the time of the election;
- ◆ A resident of the Commonwealth for one year immediately preceding the election; and
- ◆ A resident, by the time of filing, of the House of Delegates district to be represented.

IV. DISQUALIFICATION - CFDA REPORTS NOT FILED FOR PRIOR ELECTION

Individuals who are seeking, and who during the preceding five years have campaigned for, the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, the Virginia Senate or House of Delegates must have filed all required campaign contributions and expenditures reports for those past campaigns in order to qualify as a new candidate for any office of these offices. This is required by § 24.2-503.1 of the *Code of Virginia* and is in addition to other requirements for candidacy.

V. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED

A candidate must file certain documents in order to qualify to appear on the ballot. Each form is described below. An explanation of who is required to file each item also is provided. Each document can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Forms/>

A. Statement of Organization for a CANDIDATE

This document is prepared and distributed by the State Board of Elections. **All** candidates are required to file this form. Any individual serving as campaign treasurer must be a qualified voter of the Commonwealth. A candidate may serve as his own treasurer.

For further details, see **Starting A Campaign Committee** in the *Summary of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act* published by the State Board of Elections and also found on our website:

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Campaign_Finance/

V. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED (continued)

B. Certificate of Candidate Qualification

This document is prepared and distributed by the State Board of Elections. **All** candidates are required to file this form.

C. Declaration of Candidacy

This document is prepared and distributed by the State Board of Elections. It must be filed by primary election candidates and independent (non-party) candidates. It must be filed **at the same time** as the petitions.

Candidates for political party nomination by a method **other than a primary** file the declaration and the petitions described below, only if so required by the rules of the political party. Contact your district chair to determine if they are required.

D. Petition of Qualified Voters

This document is prepared and distributed by the State Board of Elections. Petitions containing at least the number of signatures required for the office sought must be filed **together with** the *Declaration of Candidacy*. Petitions must be filed by all primary and independent (non-party) candidates. Petitions **cannot** be circulated until **after** January 1, 2005.

1. Petition Circulator

Petitions can be circulated either by the candidate or any person who is, or who is eligible to be, registered and qualified to vote in the House of Delegates district in which the candidate is seeking election. The person circulating the petition must affirm before a notary or other person authorized to administer oaths, that he **personally witnessed** the affixing of the signatures. Falsely taking this affidavit is a felony under Virginia law. The circulator can **NEVER** leave the petition unattended, e.g., left on the counter at a grocery store, restaurant, etc.

2. Number of Signatures Required

Petitions for the House of Delegates must contain the signatures of at least **125** qualified voters of the House District in which the candidate is seeking election.

The State Board recommends that a candidate get at least half again the number of signatures required to assure that enough signers are qualified voters.

V. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED (continued)**E. Statement of Economic Interests**

This document is available from the Clerk of the House of Delegates and at the State Board of Elections website: www.sbe.virginia.gov It is required to be filed by all candidates for this election.

Exception - Candidates for re-election to the same office need not re-file this form if they met the requirements for filing in January 2005 as officeholders.

VI. PRIMARY FILING FEE

As the name suggests, this fee is required to be filed **ONLY** by primary election candidates. The amount required to be paid is 2% of the annual salary for the office sought in effect in the year in which the candidate files.

House of Delegates	\$352.80	[2% of \$17,640]
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NOTE: Candidates who are nominated by a political party by a method **other than** a primary election may be required to pay a filing fee. This fee is determined by the rules of the political party. Contact your district chair for details.

VII. FILING DEADLINES AND WHERE TO FILE

For A Primary Candidate

Items 1, 2 and 3 must be received by your *District Political Party Chair* by the filing deadline. Postmarks are acceptable **only** for *Items 4 and 5* and **only** if they are mailed by registered or certified mail and a receipt showing date of mailing can be produced if demanded by the State Board of Elections.

PRIMARY FILING FEE	WHERE TO FILE	FILING DEADLINE
Filing Fee in the amount of: \$352.80 [\$17,640 x .02 = \$352.80]	Treasurer or Director of Finance of the county or city where the candidate resides	5:00 p.m. 4/15/05
REQUIRED FORMS	WHERE TO FILE	FILING DEADLINE
*1. Declaration of Candidacy *2. Petitions of Qualified Voters 3. Receipt for Payment of Primary Filing Fee	District Chair of the Political Party Committee	No earlier than Noon, 3/29/05 and no later than 5:00 p.m., on 4/15/05
*4. Certificate of Candidate Qualification**	State Board of Elections	5:00 p.m. 4/15/05
*5. Statement of Economic Interests	Clerk of the House of Delegates	5:00 p.m. 4/15/05
*6. Statement of Organization for a Candidate	State Board of Elections and Electoral Board of the candidate's county or city of residence at the office of the General Registrar	5:00 p.m. 4/15/05

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR A PRIMARY ELECTION

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONT1P.pdf

and

GUIDELINES FOR POLLWORKERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONTS2P.pdf

Provide this information to any person who will either serve as your representative inside the polls or work for you outside the polls on election day.

**Any person who fails to file all the required forms by the above deadline
MAY NOT have his name printed on the Primary Election ballot.**

* Refer to Pages 3, 4 and 5 herein for details.

** The failure to file the Statement of Organization for a Candidate is not cause for disqualification. However, you are subject to penalties required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

VIII. FILING DEADLINE AND WHERE TO FILE

For A Party Candidate Nominated By Method Other Than A Primary

Postmarks are acceptable **only** if these documents are mailed by registered or certified mail and a receipt showing date of mailing can be produced if demanded by the State Board of Elections.

REQUIRED FORMS	WHERE TO FILE	FILING DEADLINE
*1. Certificate of Candidate Qualification	State Board of Elections	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05
*2. Statement of Economic Interests	Clerk of the House of Delegates	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05
*3. Statement of Organization for a Candidate **	State Board of Elections and Electoral Board of the Candidate's county or city of residence at the office of the General Registrar	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR A GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONTS1_GE.pdf

and

GUIDELINES FOR POLLWORKERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONTS2G.pdf

Provide this information to any person who will either serve as your representative inside the polls or work for you outside the polls on election day.

**Any person who fails to file all the required forms by the above deadline
MAY NOT have his name printed on the General Election ballot.**

* Refer to Pages 3, 4 and 5 herein for details.

** The failure to file the Statement of Organization for a Candidate is not cause for disqualification. However, you are subject to penalties required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

IX. FILING DEADLINE AND WHERE TO FILE

For An Independent (Non-Party) Candidate

Items 1 and 2 listed below **must be received** by the *General Registrar* by the filing deadline. Postmarks are acceptable **only** for *Items 3 and 4* and **only** if they are mailed by registered or certified mail and a receipt showing date of mailing can be produced if demanded by the State Board of Elections.

REQUIRED FORMS*	WHERE TO FILE	FILING DEADLINE
*1. Declaration of Candidacy	General Registrar of the candidate's county or city of residence	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05
*2. Petitions of Qualified Voters		
*3. Statement of Economic Interests	Clerk of the House of Delegates	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05
*4. Certificate of Candidate Qualification	State Board of Elections	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05
*5. Statement of Organization for a Candidate **	State Board of Elections and Electoral Board of the candidate's county or city of residence at the office of the General Registrar	7:00 p.m. 6/14/05

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR A GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONTS1_GE.pdf

and

GUIDELINES FOR POLLWORKERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Election/Candidates/Bulletins/local-offices/DOS_DONTS2G.pdf

Provide this information to any person who will either serve as your representative inside the polls or work for you outside the polls on election day.

**Any person who fails to file all the required forms by the above deadline
MAY NOT have his name printed on the General Election ballot.**

* Refer to Pages 3, 4 and 5 herein for details.

** The failure to file the Statement of Organization for a Candidate is not cause for disqualification. However, you are subject to penalties required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

X. REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE TO USE PARTY ID ON THE BALLOT

The General Assembly enacted legislation permitting an Independent to be identified on the ballot as a member of a political party (other than the Democratic Party or the Republican Party). In order to do so, the State Chair of the group must provide certain documents to the State Board of Elections **no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, June 20, 2005.**

These documents are:

1. An affidavit signed by the State Chair of the group, under oath, stating that the group:
 - a. Has been in existence for at least six months prior to the filing deadline (existed on or before December 14, 2004);
 - b. Has a state central committee composed of registered voters from each of Virginia's 11 congressional districts;
 - c. Has a party plan and bylaws; and
 - d. Has a duly designated chairman and secretary.
2. A list of the names and resident addresses of the officers and members of the state central committee;
3. A copy of the party plan and bylaws; and
4. A letter signed by the State Chair of the group, certifying that the individual is the nominee of the Party and, if his filing is adequate and he is determined to be qualified, is eligible to be identified as such on the November 8, 2005 ballot for the (provide office title) and in the (provide district number) for which he filed as an Independent candidate.

NOTE:

The State Board of Elections recommends that the Independent candidate **immediately** provide this information to the State Chair of the political party if he wishes to be identified as a member of a specific group on the November 8 ballot to assure that deadline for providing this information is met.

XI. NOTICE OF DEFICIENCIES IN DECLARATION OR PETITIONS

An independent [non-party] candidate may request notification of any problems with his filing that can be corrected **before** the filing deadline. This request **must be in writing** as required by § 24.2-505 of the *Code of Virginia*.

This letter must be addressed to the Secretary of the Electoral Board of the candidate's county or city of residence. It must accompany the declaration of candidacy and petitions filed with the General Registrar.

The written request **does not guarantee** timely response. Certain factors may affect the electoral board's ability to follow through, that is, the number of filings, etc. It is suggested that documents be filed **at least ten [10] working days before the filing deadline** if this notice is requested.

XII. OTHER REQUIRED REPORTS

All candidates must file *pre-election* and *post-election* reports of Candidate Campaign Committee Contributions and Expenditures. These reports are filed with the State Board of Elections **and**, if reports are filed in paper form, with the Electoral Board of the candidate's county or city of residence.

Pre-election reports are due on the schedule established for November elections. If you have questions, please contact the Campaign Finance Division on our toll-free number: 800-552-9745.

The State Board of Elections will canvass the November 8 election on **November 28, 2005**. A certificate of election will be prepared by the Board on that day. This certificate of election cannot be issued to any person elected until all required reports are filed. Any successful candidate may file the post-election report so that it is received by the State Board and, if reports are filed in paper form, the local Electoral Board, no earlier than December 5 and must file it no later than December 8, 2005.

No certificate of election can be issued to any successful candidate who fails to file the required reports.

XIII. ORDER OF NAMES ON BALLOTS

In Primary Elections

Candidates appear on the ballot in the order in which they file. This is why no candidate may file earlier than Noon on March 29, 2005, nor later than 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2005. If two or more candidates file at the same time, the order in which they appear will be determined by a drawing conducted by the State Board of Elections.

In General Elections

The candidates of political parties appear first on the ballot in the order determined by a drawing conducted by the State Board of Elections. Candidates representing any other recognized political party (see Item X of Page 9 herein), if any, appear next on the ballot in the order determined by a second drawing conducted by the State Board of Elections. Independent (non-party) candidates are listed in alphabetical order after the aforementioned political party candidates.

XIV. THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

Any successful candidate must file as a condition to assuming office, after the election and before taking office, with the Clerk of the House of Delegates, a **second** Statement of Economic Interests as required by §§ 30-110 and 30-111 of the *Code of Virginia*. Forms are prescribed by, and available from the Clerk of the House of Delegates, P. O. Box 406, Richmond 23218. Failure to so qualify creates a vacancy in the office.

XV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Listed below are the most commonly asked questions. If you need further details, please call us on our toll-free number.

A. Who may circulate a candidate's petitions?

A candidate may circulate his/her own petitions but is not required to do so. A candidate's petitions may be circulated by any person who is, or who is eligible to be, a qualified voter of the House District in which the candidate is seeking election.

The circulator must affirm before a notary or other person authorized to administer oaths, that he **personally witnessed** the affixing of the signatures. Falsely taking this affidavit is a felony under Virginia law. The circulator can **NEVER** leave the petition unattended, e.g., left on the counter at a grocery store, restaurant, etc.

XV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

- B. I am circulating a petition for a candidate. May I also sign as a qualified voter the petition that I am circulating?

I am a Notary circulating petitions for a candidate. May I notarize the petition pages I circulate?

NO TO BOTH. The person circulating the petition must swear, under oath, that he **personally witnessed** the affixing of the signatures on the petition and no person can witness his/her own signature.

- C. I am a candidate and a Notary. May I notarize the petition pages circulated by other persons?

NO. § 47.1-30 of the *Code of Virginia* prohibits a notary from performing a notarial act on any document in which the notary or his spouse is a party, **or** in which either of them has a direct beneficial interest.

Any Notary who violates these provisions is considered guilty of official misconduct, may be removed from office and may be subject to other penalties.

- D. I work for the federal government. Can I be a candidate?

Generally, **NO** since the election is partisan.

Employees of the federal government are prohibited from being candidates in partisan elections by the federal law commonly known as the Hatch Act. Most employees of the legislative branch of the federal government are exempt from the Hatch Act. However, they may be affected by other rules and regulations.

Neither a federal government employee nor a person holding any office or post of profit or emolument under the United States government may hold this office. If any person so employed or holding an office of profit or emolument is elected, he would have to resign from the federal government before taking office.

XV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

E. I work for the state or a local government. Can I be a candidate?

Some state and local government employees **are prohibited** from being candidates. You may be so prohibited if your Agency receives federal funds. **Contact the personnel officer where you work.** If necessary, present the facts of your case in writing, including the office you wish to seek, to the **Office of the Special Counsel**, 1730 M Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036. That office will determine if you are affected by the Hatch Act.

Most state and local government employees are not prohibited by law from being a candidate. However, you may be affected by the rules and regulations of the agency or ordinances of the government for which you work. **Contact your personnel officer.**

Further, if you are a salaried officer of the Commonwealth of Virginia, you must resign from the position you hold prior to taking office.